

United States have the highest life expectancy of any group of elderly people in the world.

This is a very great country if you do your part and we do ours, we're going to be just fine. Let's do that in 1996.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:45 p.m. at the Sheraton New York Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to former Mayor David Dinkins of New York City. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Message on the Observance of the Chinese New Year

February 8, 1996

Warm greetings to everyone observing the Chinese New Year as you welcome 4694, the Year of the Rat.

This ancient annual festival unites people of Chinese heritage across America and around the globe in a joyous celebration of hope and new beginnings. Family and friends gather to renew the bonds of love and to rejoice in the rich cultural traditions of the Chinese people. The sorrows and mistakes of the past year dissolve in a flurry of fireworks, dancing, feasting, and the exchange of gifts.

The Chinese New Year is a fitting occasion for us to reflect on the many contributions that Chinese Americans have brought to our national life—among them a respect for family, a reverence for knowledge, and an unwavering determination to make tomorrow better than today. Let us rejoice together in this season of renewal and resolve to work for a future of harmony and prosperity for us all.

Best wishes for a new year of happiness, health, freedom, and peace.

Bill Clinton

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 16.

Message on the Observance of the Vietnamese Lunar New Year

February 8, 1996

Warm greetings to everyone observing the Vietnamese Lunar New Year as you welcome the Year of the Rat.

This ancient annual festival unites people of Vietnamese heritage across America and around the globe in an exuberant celebration of hope and new beginnings. Family and friends gather to renew the bonds of love and to rejoice in the rich cultural traditions of Vietnam. The joys of the coming year are anticipated with a flurry of fireworks, flowers, decorations, and feasting.

Tet is a fitting occasion for us to reflect on the many gifts that Vietnamese Americans have brought to our national life—among them a reverence for family, an unquenchable optimism, and an unwavering determination to make tomorrow better than today. Let us rejoice together in this season of renewal and resolve to work for a future of harmony and prosperity for us all.

Best wishes for a new year of happiness, health, freedom, and peace.

Bill Clinton

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 16.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

February 10

In the morning, the President traveled to Cedar Rapids, IA, and then to Iowa City. In the afternoon, he traveled to Cedar Rapids and then to Clear Lake, where he toured a grain elevator at the Farmers' Co-op Society.

In the evening, the President traveled from Mason City to Des Moines.

The President declared a major disaster in the State of Idaho and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding beginning February 6 and continuing.

February 11

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

February 12

In the afternoon, the President met with the Central and East European Coalition in the Roosevelt Room. He later attended a meeting between Ulster Unionist Party leader David Trimble and National Security Adviser Anthony Lake in the National Security Adviser's office.

The President announced his intention to appoint Mark S. Gaede as the Department of Agriculture representative to the Geologic Mapping Advisory Committee.

The President announced the appointment of Daniel K. Tarullo as Deputy Assistant to the President for Economic Policy.

February 13

The White House announced that the President has invited Amir Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah of Kuwait to the White House for a working visit on February 28.

The President declared a major disaster in the State of Vermont and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by ice jams and flooding, beginning January 19.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mary D. Greene to the National Institute for Literacy Advisory Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate Alberta Seybolt George and David A. Ucko to the National Museum Services Board.

The President announced his intention to appoint Norman Brownstein to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

The President announced his intention to reappoint Kailash Mathur to the National Nutrition Monitoring Advisory Council.

February 14

In the morning, the President traveled to Portland, OR, and then to Woodland, WA, where he toured flood-damaged areas via helicopter, motorcade, and on foot. In the afternoon, the President returned to Portland after touring flood-damaged areas by helicopter, and then traveled to Boise, ID. In the evening, he traveled to Newark, NJ.

The President announced that the White House Leadership Conference on Youth Drug Use and Violence will be held March 7 at Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Greenbelt, MD.

February 15

In the morning, the President traveled to Union City, NJ. In the afternoon, he traveled to New York City and in the evening, to East Rutherford, NJ.

The White House announced that the President has invited Greek Prime Minister Konstandinos Simitis to Washington for a working visit on April 9.

The President announced his intention to reappoint Thomas F. Eagleton, Gen. Lew Allen, Jr., Sidney D. Drell, Zoe Baird, and Lois D. Rice to the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate Henry E. McKoy as a member of the Board of Directors of the African Development Foundation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mark E. Emblidge to the National Institute for Literacy Advisory Board.

February 16

In the morning, the President traveled from Newark, NJ, to Scranton and Wilkes-Barre, PA, where he toured flood-damaged areas. In the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to appoint Robert Krueger as Ambassador to Botswana.

The President announced his intention to reappoint Donald J. Pease as a member of the Amtrak Board of Directors.

The President announced his intention to appoint Arthur Q. Davis to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

**Nominations
Submitted to the Senate**

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

**Checklist
of White House Press Releases**

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released February 10

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on disaster assistance for Idaho

Released February 12

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on the President's meeting with the Central and East European Coalition, a group of 18 U.S. organizations

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on the President's meeting with National Security Adviser Tony Lake and Ulster Unionist Party leader David Trimble

Released February 13

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry announcing the upcoming visit of President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro of Italy

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry announcing the upcoming visit of Amir Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah, of Kuwait

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on disaster assistance for Vermont

Released February 15

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry announcing the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Konstandinos Simitis of Greece

Released February 16

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry announcing that Secretary of Commerce Ronald H. Brown will lead a commercial development mission to Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Uganda, Kenya, and Botswana

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved February 10

H.R. 2029 / Public Law 104-105
Farm Credit System Reform Act of 1996

S. 1124 / Public Law 104-106
National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1996

Approved February 12

H.R. 1868 / Public Law 104-107
Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1996

H.R. 2111 / Public Law 104-108
To designate the Federal building located at 1221 Nevin Avenue in Richmond, California, as the "Frank Hagel Federal Building"

H.R. 2726 / Public Law 104-109
To make certain technical corrections in laws relating to Native Americans, and for other purposes

Approved February 13

H.R. 2353 / Public Law 104-110
To amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out certain programs and activities, to require certain reports from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes

H.R. 2657 / Public Law 104-111
To award a congressional gold medal to Ruth and Billy Graham